Simple New Wine System: (and Other Religious Thoughts)

by James Banks

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The New Wine System

Introduction

I read a book almost 10 years ago that affected me deeply, called *New Wine for the End Times* (written by Philip Brown). It is about 600 pages long and goes into all the verses in the Bible that justify the author's belief in what he calls the New Wine System.

I liked the New Wine System, but my mind is not the sort to hold on to and manage large amounts of information. It seemed to be argued well to me, but I can't repeat the author's Biblical arguments, to try to explain it to other people.

I tried making an argument for a Christianity which was in the New Wine form, for people who don't believe in God. I think it might be successful (so far it looks that way to me), but again, though I came up with it myself, it is too complicated for me to explain to other people, at least, not without getting into philosophy that I can't hold in my head at one time. I could show what I've written so far, but not really explain to someone who was simply curious.

In this booklet, I try to argue for the New Wine System without using either the Bible or complicated philosophy, but

instead, starting with the assumption that my reader believes in a certain version of God, who has a few basic attributes. I have some hope of being able to explain this to people.

Then I try to talk about the implications of the New Wine System.

This booklet is condensed and perhaps requires some thought on the reader's part to fully understand it.

Basic idea of the New Wine System

Here is a simplified view of the New Wine System. It is the New Wine System as I understand it, but perhaps differing from Philip Brown in some ways.

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What kind of God is this book about?

He never sins, he loves, he is the creator and sustainer. He is generally all-powerful -- exceptions include things that follow from him not sinning, from him loving, from him being a personal being, and from him obeying logic or perhaps certain other laws that follow from his nature and will. (These limitations allow us to trust him.) He knows everything that can be known.

Sin is that which is unacceptable to God. God accepts it for now, otherwise it would not exist. Can God stand sin forever? Then he accepts it permanently, and it is not sin.

Our real sins are our real choices, the things we can stop doing or being. Repentance is always something you're capable of doing.

Our sinful behaviors, habits, and drives are things that can be taken away from us by God, but our hearts are up to us.

We can identify ourselves with sin, be on the side of it. If we do this temporarily, then God patiently gives us the chance to stop identifying with sin and stop being on the side of it. But he can't do this forever, or else he would have to accept sin.

So we have a limited amount of time to turn away from all sin.

There is not enough time to do this in our lives on earth, so God gives us a longer period of time after this life in which to fully turn against sin and fully distance ourselves from it so that it is no longer part of who we are, no longer part of what we choose and prefer.

After we have fully turned against sin, we can live with God forever.

Added thoughts

The worst sin is to fail to love God with all of our beings. Or maybe that's the only sin (all the rest follow from it). This love can also be viewed as a good thing in itself. Repentance is *from* sin and *to* 100% love of God. Loving God involves being aligned with God's values, sharing his heart. And also loving God as a person, whom you get to know.

Implications

The New Wine System implies that there is always something to do in your spiritual / religious / moral life, until you have reached the point of 100% repentance. (You can't know that you've reached that point until you are in heaven.)

You can't be complacent or take your salvation completely for granted. You can have some assurance that you are on the right path, but you must keep going down that path. Procrastinating on repenting gets some grace, but not infinite grace, so you have to stop procrastinating in order to make it to heaven. You have a long way to go, and you have to travel the way yourself, so you might as well start now.

Don't let things grow in you that could harden you against repentance.

It's dangerous to give up on yourself.

There are people for you to help along the way. They have to repent, themselves (they need to turn to God and away from

sin themselves). It's their decision. You can help them by choosing to repent, yourself. And by helping them find God desirable. These things are "anti-temptations". (There can be other things that you do, but I want to emphasize these, because perhaps they are the most trustworthy.)

What should we do, and what must we not do, specifically? There is time to sort this out in the next life (the one between this life and heaven), although it is worth trying to figure out in this one, if it can help us live better.

Can we know which God is the real God? The things that we think about God can be inadequate and inaccurate, even if we are his friends, just as our ideas of our human friends can be inadequate and inaccurate. Having a wrong conception of God is likely, and sometimes being wrong about God now has negative consequences. It is also true that the question can be cleared up by God later, if we can be open-minded.

Other Thoughts

These are some other thoughts that I think are important, that I want to add.

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We can distress God. We can harm God, at least temporarily.

If we reject God permanently, then he loses us.

God experiences exactly what we experience. He experiences firsthand what we experience firsthand. He experiences more than what we experience but not less.

We should love God, and orient everything around loving God. We should love people, and ourselves, because we love God. For God's sake, we should love people, because he loves them. God is the center.

Further reading

My website (10v24.net) and blog (formulalessness.blogspot.com) contain much more related to the New Wine System. I mostly approach things from a philosophical perspective that can connect to the Bible, but which does not require belief in the Bible.

Philip Brown (newwine.org) has written *New Wine for the End Times*, the comprehensive Biblical justification of the New Wine System that I read, and also *Romans Under New Light*, a shorter book introducing the New Wine System.

Feedback

This booklet is version 1.1, released 28 June 2023. I may want to revise it in the future. If you have feedback, that may help me in that.

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